

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

There have been a multitude of occasions where I wanted to see a particular show and even movies on a pay service such as HBO, etc.. as well as on a Pay Per View channel but I was not able to be at my television set at the scheduled time, so I would tape the programming. I have recorded a show on one type of media (such as DVD-RAM) and later wanted to switch to another type of media (VHS Tape) so that I could watch the show. I want to make it clear that I did not share the program with others, it was so that I could watch the programming for the first time. If there is a flag that would prevent me from taping from one media type to another, it would be wrong. I have run into situations with the current flags on Video Tapes and DVDs where I cannot make backups of the ones that my children like to watch so that when the tape gets eaten by the video recorder, my children spill soda or kool-aid or any sticky substance on the tape, or stepped on and broken it must be thrown away. I sure wish there was a way to get a free replacement. THE EXISTING COPY PROTECTION FLAGS THAT ARE ON VIDEO TAPES AND DVDS CURRENTLY LIMIT MY ABILITY TO MAKE BACKUPS.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? As the flags that have been implemented today on Video Tapes and DVDs, I cannot make archival backups of items that I have purchased. It is hard to believe that the proponents can say that it will not limit this ability, because THE EXISTING FLAGS THAT ARE ON VIDEO TAPES AND DVDS TODAY DO LIMIT THIS ABILITY.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I use a variety of recording equipment at my house. I experiment with Digital Video, DVD Writers in my computer, my children have an older VCR and will continue to have older equipment until it either breaks or wears completely out.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

I would like to have the values that are sent in this flag be regulated by the FCC. If it is left up to any self regulating organization, I doubt that the consumer's viewpoint will be taken into consideration. Furthermore, if broadcasters are using the public airwaves then this flag, and its content or values should be regulated just like the type of programs and the language used in them is regulated today.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

If the flags change from time to time, I have to wonder how the different pieces of hardware would get updated or know how to handle the new values.

Other Comments:

Without detailed information about the flags, values, uses and implementation plans, I cannot feel comfortable with allowing these to be added to the broadcast signal. And, if flags are added to the broadcast

signal, they should be regulated just like any other content on the public airwaves.